Since its discovery in the State of Pennsylvania in 1998, Plum Pox has been recognized by regulators and industry as a devastating threat to the stone fruit industry of the United States.

Since 1998 cooperative efforts on the part of the United States Dept. of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture have successfully minimized the infection areas in Pennsylvania and project is moving toward a complete eradication in that state. In 2006, as result of Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey activities, plum pox was discovered in stonefruit stock in Michigan and New York. Tree removal and survey activities in those states are being actively implemented with the goal of eradication of this disease. However, due to cuts in the 2008 USDA, APHIS,PPQ budget for Miscellaneous Plant Pests, survey and tree removals in all three states are being reduced by approximately 75 percent. This reduction threatens the success of this eradication effort in these states and places the entire stonefruit industry in the United States at risk.

RESOLVED, by the Central Plant Board at its 84th annual meeting in Madison, Wisconsin on March 14, 2008 that USDA seek funding to fully implement an aggressive survey and tree removal program for this disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Congress provide adequate funding to fully implement an aggressive survey and tree removal program in FY 09 and until this disease is eradicated from United States.

Distribution:

Cindy Smith, Administrator, USDA, APHIS
Rebecca Bech, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ
Bob Ehart, NASDA
Walker Gray Haun, President, National Plant Board
Regional Plant Board Presidents